



Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Time: 8:00 PM

Location: 27 Maple Street, HHS Conference Room, 2nd Floor

Conducted by Hybrid (Remote and In-Person)

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy To prevent abuse of video conferencing technology (i.e., Zoom Bombing), all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their names may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the dial-in telephone information provided.

When: October 18, 2023, 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

On March 29, 2023, Governor Healey signed into law a supplemental budget bill that extends the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025. Specifically, this extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body being physically present at a meeting location and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings. The language does not make any substantive changes to the Open Meeting Law other than extending the expiration date of the temporary provisions regarding remote meetings from March 31, 2023, to March 31, 2025.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/updated-guidance-on-holding-meetings-pursuant-to-the-act-extending-certain-covid-19-measures>

Present: Co-Chairs Carney, Pusey. Commissioners Soneja, Key, Bauer, Beauchemin, Grossman, S. Jones, Bryant

Absent: Commissioners Horowitz, G. Jones

Staff: Teresa Marzilli (DEI), Tim Ross (DEI), Captain Flynn (APD), Colleen Leger (HHS)

Community members: Elizabeth Dray

Minutes

1. Remote Meeting Notice and Land Acknowledgement
2. Review of September 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Corrected typos, Motion to accept with corrections, seconded by Commissioner Key. Passed with one abstention.

3. Statement on the 40th Anniversary of the Iranian massacre of Baha'i Women (Farjam Mohtadi)

This item was tabled.

4. Incidents & Complaints & APD Updates

- a. Commissioner Updates

- i. A newly reported incident did not involve the AHRC
- ii. Recent incident at Ottoson School was not reported to the DEI department. A discussion ensued about follow up protocols
- iii. Updates regarding a previously reported incident in East Arlington. Commissioner Key called the reporting party to provide information about counseling services via AYCC and religious supports.

- b. APD- Updates from Captain Flynn

- i. No new incidents reported.
- ii. No specific threats, but monitoring intelligence provided by Fusion Center, were specifically asked to monitor threats to the Jewish community. In response to a question, Capt. Flynn confirmed that no such guidance was provided to monitor threats to the Muslim community
- iii. Crisis intervention training (1/4 of the staff has undergone this training). In response to a question about specifics, Capt. Flynn spoke about what the training entails
- iv. Updates by Capt. Flynn about the recent protests by a neo-Nazi group at Gov. Healy's residence. Members of the group parked near Spy Pond and walked on the bike path. Chief Flaherty met with community members after the protests
- v. Discussion regarding protocols about communications – or lack, thereof - to the community and also the need for the AHRC to be involved in these discussions

5. Draft Statement on Israel

- a. Commissioner Grossman spoke emotionally about the harm to the community with regard to the attacks by Hamas. Mentioned that those who are targeted should not have to speak up about the targeting. Members spoke about the horrific nature of the attacks and about people being targeted for following a specific religion
- b. Some commission members spoke about the need to focus the statement on the Hamas terror attacks. A few spoke about the need to focus on the human rights abuses faced by people in the region after the military response by the Israeli defense forces in Gaza and the ensuing humanitarian crisis
- c. Decision was made to focus on the humanity and separate the political & historical aspects of the situation in the region. Statements made by two other MA human rights-related organizations were introduced
- d. Comm. Bauer made a motion – seconded by Comm. Key - to use the Hingham Unity Council statement as a model to draft a statement with Comm. Beauchemin. All voted yes, except one, no.

6. Motion by Comm. Grossman – seconded by Comm. Key - to table the rest of the items until the meeting in November. All voted in favor.

7. TABLED ITEMS

- DEI Update
- Coffee Chats
- MAHRC Update/Issues - Commissioner Soneja
- Working Group Updates
 - Schools & Education
 - Outreach / Events
 - IPD 2024 Co-Sponsorship
 - Budget Requests
 - Communications
 - Rapid Response Team
- Co-Chairs Report
 - APD Meeting with Chief Flaherty
 - DEI Co-Chairs
- Housing Working Group
- MCAD Training on Civil Rights
- Community Input
- Announcements
 - Next meeting – Wednesday, November 15, 2023
 - Incident Handling
 - October: Commissioner Bauer
 - November: Commissioner Pusey
 - December: Commissioner Horwitz

8. Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 8:00 pm, Remote Participation

Anyone needing accessibility information or assistance to attend this meeting should contact Tim Ross at tross@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.